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REF ID: A66111

4 January 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR (RESEARCH), CIA

SUBJECT: (S) Activation of NRO Satellite Operations Office

- References:** (a) Memo for DD(R)/CIA dtd 15 June 62, subject:
NRO Satellite Operations Office (BYE 1377-62)
- (b) Memo for UnderSec/AF dtd 9 Aug 62, subject:
NRO Satellite Operations Office (BYE 1868-62)
- (c) Memo for DD(R)/CIA dtd 10 Sep 62, subject:
NRO Satellite Operations Office (BYE 1862-62)
- (d) Memo for Director NRO dtd 26 Sep 62, subject:
Manning for NRO Satellite Operations Office
(BYE 1806-62)

Since our last exchange of correspondence on the above subject, all of the actions necessary to build, equip, and staff the NRO Satellite Operations Office, and to train additional personnel have proceeded smoothly. I have followed closely these actions and have recently reviewed the present status. As of this date, the physical construction of the Center is complete, the installation of the high speed teletype machines is complete, the installation of the facsimile machines linking the Operations Office to Global Weather Central will be completed within the next week or so, secure telephone systems are installed and operating to all key points, all but three of the 28 personnel are assigned, and of these, a sufficient number have been granted the requisite security clearances to enable operations to begin. In summary, with the actual move of the personnel previously agreed to, and the move of the associated aids agreed to between Col Herron and Mr. Dulac in the course of working out the details of our agreement, the NRO Satellite Operations Office is ready for business.

As we both have noted in our previous discussions and correspondence on this subject, the training of personnel, the planning and construction of the new office, and the move to this office are matters

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which require careful consideration in order that no disruption occur to presently operating projects. I have been especially pleased to note the cooperative progress that has been made since we agreed to this basic arrangement last September. Your agreement to transfer Mr. Dulac and Major Shaddey, has insured that the Satellite Operations Office will be able to continue without interruption the efficient operational procedures developed in the CORONA project, and that these procedures will serve as the basis for those to be developed for more advanced NRO satellite projects. The training which has been given in the CIA operations office to the key airmen will be invaluable in this effort. In addition to these key people, we are obtaining experienced personnel from Gen Greer's organization, and personnel from the Army and Navy.

In consideration of the present status, and of the schedule of NRO satellite operations, I am convinced that the time has arrived for the actual move of all NRO satellite operations to this new office. I therefore request that you instruct the Agency personnel involved that the move is to be carried out on the 14th of January 1963. On this date the three previously agreed personnel from the CIA and the requisite equipment, charts and supplies should be moved to the NRO Satellite Operations Center in Room BD-944, Pentagon. This will allow control of the 7 January CORONA launch to be carried out from Langley prior to the move. By moving on the 14th, ample time should be available to carry out the second LANYARD CFX from the new office during the last week of January. After the move on the 14th, all NRO satellite operations control will be exercised from the new office.

In view of the present readiness, and the schedule which lies ahead, it is apparent that the move at this time presents the best opportunity for an orderly transfer during a period of minimum operations. I am convinced that it should be carried out promptly in order to permit full attention to the necessary preparation for the more advanced projects scheduled during this coming spring and summer.

Signed
Joseph V. Charyk
Director
(S) National Reconnaissance Office

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